

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06377 300938Z

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SUBJ: WORLD PEACE COUNCIL VISITS PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: DELEGATION FROM WORLD COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION ARRIVED IN LISBON OCT 26 AND WILL DEPART NOV 1. SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION, INCLUDING CHILEAN SOCIALIST CARLOS ALTAMIRANO, AND MEMBERS FROM USSR AND NORTH VIET-NAM, WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO. DELEGATION GENERALLY SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR "PROGRESSIVE" ELEMENTS, INCLUDING UNITED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT AND COMMUNISTS. PRIMARY OBJECTIVE, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN TO PUSH FOR GOP'S ENDORSEMENT OF POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR LIBERATION OF ANGOLA. REFUSAL OF FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES TO MEET WITH GROUP AND OBVIOUSLY OVERBLOWN COVERAGE BY COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS HAVE HELPED TO PUT VISIT IN PERSPECTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. DELEGATION: A SEVEN-MAN DELEGATION FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION ARE VISITING PORTUGAL OCT 26-NOV 1. DELEGATION INCLUDED: CARLOS ALTAMIRANO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHILEAN SOCIALIST PARTY; JOSEPH ROBERT, FRENCH WORKER-PRIEST; JEAN MICHAEL EBAKA FROM PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO; DIMITRI TOMASHEVSKY FROM USSR; LE DINH NHAN FROM POPULAR REPUBLIC
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PAGE 02 LISBON 06377 300938Z

OF VIET-NAM; RAYMOND GOOR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF COUNCIL; AND

ROBER BILLE OF COUNCIL SECRETARIAT.

2. ACTIVITIES: WHILE HERE DELEGATION CALLED UPON PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AND PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO, AND MET SEPARATELY WITH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS--INCLUDING CUNHAL--AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ULTRA-LEFT UNITED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT (FUR). DELEGATION ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY ADM ROSA COUTINHO. COPCON COMMANDER OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINS GUERREIRO, AND OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT OFFICERS ATTENDED.

3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS: DELEGATION EXPRESSED USUAL WORDS OF WARM UNDERSTANDING FOR PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION, STRESSING NEED TO REMAIN VIGILANT IN FACE OF CONTINUING IMPERIALIST THREATS. IN PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 28, DELEGATION SPOKESMAN, HOWEVER, CAME MORE TO THE POINT. SPOKESMAN CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL TO RECOGNIZE ANGOLAN POPULAR LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MPLA) AS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA. SPOKESMAN LABELED FNLA AND UNITA AS DISCREDITED TOOLS OF IMPERIALISM.

4. COVERAGE: VISIT BY DELEGATION HAS RECEIVED MODERATE TO HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE. COMMUNIST-LINING LISBON PRESS HAS, AS EXPECTED, GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO VISIT AND COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF DELEGATION, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ENDORSEMENT OF MPLA.

5. COMMENT: ARRIVAL OF DELEGATION AT THIS TIME--A SCANT TWO WEEKS BEFORE SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 11 TRANSFER OF POWER IN ANGOLA IS NO COINCIDENCE. ALTHOUGH DELEGATION HAS SOUGHT GENERALLY TO BUOY UP SPIRITS OF LEFTISTS--PARTICULARLY FUR AND ROSA COUTINHO ET AL--PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN TO PUSH FOR GOP SUPPORT OF MPLA. DECISION BY PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER TO SEE GROUP HAS GIVEN VISIT A LUSTRE IT WOULD OTHERWISE NOT HAVE MERITED. BUT REFUSAL OF FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES TO SEE DELEGATION AND OBVIOUSLY OVERBLOWN COVERAGE BY COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS HAVE HELPED PUT VISIT IN BETTER PERSPECTIVE.
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